

Rural Power

KEC board book goes digital with help of app

The KEC Board took the first steps away from paper and toward an iPad future at its May 10 meeting. KEC staff members Carol Dorr and Carrie Kimberlin were asked to coordinate this tech adventure. After researching options immediately available, the choice was made to utilize an app called BoardPaq.

“The biggest advantage of this app is its flexibility,” Kimberlin said. “Information can be accessed with an iPad, other tablet devices, or through a traditional computer. In addition to the meeting minutes and reports that are typically included in the hard copy of the board book, BoardPaq has multiple bonus functions including a directory of KEC staff and board members, a calendar, and more.”

Prior to the May meeting, 36 staff, managers and board members had received their login information for the app. That number has grown to 60 since the May meeting.

KEC Board President, John Blackwell, hopes that all KEC board members and managers will sign up for the app before the end of the year.

KEC communications staff honored with two Spotlight awards

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., communications staff received recognition in the 2013 “Spotlight on Excellence” national awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and NRECA.

KEC’s communications staff received an Award of Merit for Best Special Publication category for the Government Relations Expansion Proposal brochure. KEC also earned an Award of Merit for the Best Total Communications Program category for the New Director & Employee Orientation event.



Victory’s Pat Morse (left) converses with Rolling Hills’ Gary Frieling about the new BoardPaq app at the KEC May Board Meeting.

“The iPad version is really easy to use and staff has done a great job with this project,” Blackwell said.

As more board members opt out of the paper version, the shift from printing and assembling has the potential to save money and other

resources. KEC also hopes this change will make things easier for board members.

“You will have so much more at your fingertips. In addition to the current board materials, previous meetings will be archived for reference as will our policies and bylaws,” said Bruce Graham, KEC Chief Executive Officer.

“The app is more instantaneous,” Kimberlin added. “We can update information the day of the meeting, use push notifications, and get information out with no lag time.”

To assist users understand all of the app’s functions, Kimberlin offered individual training on the day prior to the May board meeting. Board members set up their BoardPaq accounts and learned how to navigate the site. This same service will be offered at the KEC Summer Board Meeting in the afternoon of Sun., Aug. 4.

The annual Spotlight awards competition recognizes the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric co-ops and related organizations in 19 categories. KEC competed with other statewide for these honors.

Electric co-op communicators submitted more than 740 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its 25th year. Faculty members from the University of Missouri – Columbia, University of South Carolina and Ohio University Scripps-Howard School of Journalism judged the entries.

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Oklahoma statewide creates Touchstone Energy Relief Fund for tornado victims

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives created the "Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Oklahoma Relief Fund" to assist individuals in electric cooperative service areas who were affected by the May 17 – 20 tornadoes.

"We at OAEC have had many requests, literally from across the nation, concerning ways to make donations or send contributions for this relief effort," said Sidney Sperry, OAEC's Director of PR, Communications and Research. "We sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness and consideration of these storm victims living in electric cooperative service areas within the state of Oklahoma."

To make a donation or contribution:

By mail: Please make checks payable to TEC Oklahoma Relief Fund, P.O. Box 54309, Oklahoma City, OK 73154-1309

Wired Funds: Routing #: 103-900-036 (Bank of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK 73124) Credit to: OKRET Credit Union Acct #: 198895 Final Acct #: 240

Credit Card Payments: To make a credit card donation, visit <http://tinyurl.com/kyzn8j7>

Should you have any questions, call Chris Meyers, OAEC CEO, at 405-478-1455 or Sid Sperry at 405-607-0160.

Teaching students about electricity - There's an app for that

From nuclear power plants to solar powered homes, the Trustworthy Cyber Infrastructure for the Power Grid's free iPad app, Tesla Town, allows young students to explore and learn about different energy sources. Tesla Town is available to download for free from the iTunes App Store and is also available on the web at <http://tcipg.mste.illinois.edu/teslatown>.

SAFE ELECTRICITY – 5/14/13

MAY

27 **Memorial Day – KEC Office Closed**

30-31 **CFC Financial Workshop**, Marriott Hotel, 9100 Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita

JUNE

12-13 **Spring Managers Meeting**, Hyatt Regency, Wichita

13-20 **"Government in Action Youth Tour"**, Washington, DC.

21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

Directors training courses offered at KEC's summer board meeting

KEC's Summer Board Meeting will be held at the Overland Park Marriott.

On Sat., Aug. 3, Wallace Barron will facilitate the CCD Course 2610 Understanding the Electric Business and Jody Severson will facilitate the Board Leadership Course 913 Cooperative Foundations: Co-op Legacy, Principles and Impact on Communities.

On Sun., Aug. 4, Wallace Barron will also facilitate the Board Leadership Course 955 Your Board's Culture: Its Impact on Effectiveness. KEC's Carrie Kimberlin will offer BoardPaaS training.

The KEC Summer Board Meeting agenda will follow on Mon., Aug 5. Registration materials will be available in early June.

annualmeetings

Wheatland

Wheatland celebrated its 65th anniversary at the annual meeting at the Caldwell community center on April 3. Approximately 150 people attended. Webb's Barbeque served lunch to the attendees prior to the meeting.

Bruce Mueller, General Manager; Phillip Shelley, Director of Operations; and Joel Bryan, Director of Finance, spoke to the membership. Stuart Lowry, Sunflower's CEO, also spoke.

Re-elected to the board were Lawrence Houston, Tribune; Wes Campbell, Garden City; Bob Hiss, Great Bend; and Woody Barnes, Caldwell.

Caney Valley

Caney Valley's 65th Annual Meeting was held May 7 at the Cedar Vale School Gymnasium with more than 500 members and guests present. There were 342 members registered, the highest attendance since 2001. Sedan Lions Club provided a meal and the Sedan Music Department provided entertainment.

Special guests included Bruce Graham, KEC, Phil Wages and Bill Riggins, KEPCo, and Pam Henderson, District Representative for Senator Jerry Moran. Graham and Riggins also provided remarks on industry issues.

The scholarship and camp winners were recognized at the meeting. Service awards

were presented to employees including 25-year awards to John McMillan and Dave Kelly, a 30-year award to Kitty Champlin, and 35-year awards to Oscar Mattocks and Craig Lampson.

Re-elected to the Board of Trustees were Kenneth Bates, Carl Johnson, Jr., and James Clark, Jr.

Western

Approximately 250 people attended Western's 68th Annual Meeting on May 8.

Western's linemen provided valet parking for members, after which all employees helped serve the meal, catered by Bigge's Country Kitchen of Stockton.

The Wheatland High School electric car team displayed three cars and shared the past race season's competitions and awards.

Sunflower's Stuart Lowry spoke to the members about current projects, compliance issues, and cost analyses.

With his final annual report, retiring Manager Dave Schneider expressed a word of gratitude to the membership and employees for his privilege to be a part of the Western Cooperative Electric family for the past 35 years. He then introduced Darrin Lynch as his replacement.

Re-elected to the board were Donald L. Schultz, Frank Joy, and Charles Luetters.

Touchstone Energy honors KEC's Shana Read as Brand Champion

Shana Read, Kansas Electric Cooperatives' Director of Communications, has been named a 2013 Touchstone Energy Brand Champion.



Shana Read

Read was one of 11 dedicated co-op employees recognized for their exceptional efforts to promote Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand.

Nominated by KEC's member co-ops, Read serves as a Regional Member and coordinates the Kansas Touchstone Energy council made up of co-op managers, directors and employees that oversee Kansas' Touchstone Energy involvement. She also included Touchstone Energy in the 2012 Kansas new employee and director training.

The Brand Champion Award shines the spotlight on dedicated employees in various job roles who have shown exceptional leadership, effectiveness and

consistency while locally or regionally building the brand. These employees exhibit innovation, integrity, accountability and commitment to community while proudly serving their members.

Read was nominated for her outstanding contributions to the development, growth and success of the Touchstone Energy brand.

"Shana is a shining example of why the brand is as strong and successful as it is today," said Jim Bausell, COO of Touchstone Energy. "This type of leadership on behalf of the Touchstone Energy brand has had an impact in their local, regional and state communities."

Touchstone Energy's success as the national brand for electric cooperatives is attributed to individuals such as these award winners who truly live the "power of human connections". Previous winners of this award in Kansas include Butler's Travis Griffin (2010), Western's Dennis Deines (2011), and Sunflower's Nikki Pfannenstiel (2012).

Wheatland awards grant to KSU Extension-Scott County

Through its Sharing Success Fund, Wheatland Electric Co-op has awarded a \$650 grant to K-State Research and Extension-Scott County.

Scott County Extension submitted a request for the grant to help purchase a new network server. The extension office has been "making do" with an old server that is under-sized and unreliable.

The new server will help the extension office to better provide information on topics including lawn and garden, 4-H and youth development, crops and livestock and health nutrition. The extension office also maintains an extensive library of educational publications.

The Sharing Success Fund was created last November with a contribution of \$5,000 from CoBank. The Scott Community Foundation, which manages the Sharing Success Fund, began formally accepting applications for grants from non-profit organizations on Dec. 1, 2012, and will run until the funds are exhausted.

"We realize these types of organizations are increasingly under pressure to do more with less when it comes to funding," said Wheatland's Shawn Powelson, Member Services.

Midwest Energy members vote to self-regulate

By a nearly three-to-one margin, Midwest Energy members voted to self-regulate, giving the cooperative's member-elected Board of Directors most of the decision-making authority previously held by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

Nearly 50,000 ballots were mailed to members in April. A total of 11,115 completed ballots were returned to Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball of Hays, an independent accounting firm retained to count the ballots and certify the results. The final count was 8,001 members (72%) voting "Yes" to self-regulation, with 3,114 members (28%) voting "No."

"We were very pleased with the strong ballot response," said Midwest Energy's President and General Manager, Earnie Lehman. "We made every effort and took every opportunity to inform members how self-regulation would help our cooperative, and the strong turnout is an indicator we hit our

CMS energizes Miller Substation

CMS recently placed into service the Miller Substation. The substation was constructed to meet the growing oil field load in Comanche County. The station has a capacity of 8400 kW and is located east of Coldwater.

The new substation was named for Darrol Miller, who served on the CMS Board from 1979-2009, and was President from 1990-1998.



CMS Manager Kirk Thompson (left) and Board member Don Nighswonger (right) watch as former Board member Darrol Miller energizes the substation.

I appreciate the vote of confidence the membership has placed in our Board.

JOHN BLACKWELL

target."

The drive for self-regulation began in January, with an employee and member education campaign, which used direct mailings, radio, and newspaper ads to outline the proposal.

A series of town hall-style meetings were held in Great Bend, Colby, Scott City and Hays in March and April for members who wanted to discuss the proposal in person.

"I appreciate the vote of confidence the membership has placed in our Board," said John Blackwell, Chair of the Board of Directors for Midwest Energy. "While this ultimately makes our Board more accountable, it positions us better for future opportunities, while eliminating significant overhead costs for our members."

With the vote, Midwest Energy becomes the 28th of 29 electric cooperatives in Kansas to become self-regulated since the Kansas Legislature authorized it in 1992.

KEC seeks apparatus testing technician

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., (KEC) has an immediate opening for an Apparatus Testing Technician.

This position will work out of the KEC facility in Osage City and is responsible for maintenance and repair of electric apparatus, as well as technical service and support.

Contact KEC for a complete position description.

KEC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. To apply, send a resume and cover letter to Bob Hall at bhall@kec.org. Deadline is May 31.

Sedgwick County seeks member services director

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, headquartered in Cheney, is looking for a Member Services Director. Minimum of associates degree in Communica-

tions or Business-related field and valid driver's license.

Bachelor's or advanced degree and utility and supervisory experience is preferred. Salary determined by qualifications.

For a detailed job description and job duties, see sedgwickcountyelectric.coop website or call 316-542-3131.

insympathy

Dorothy White

Dorothy White, wife of former KEC employee Duane White, died on April 29 after many years of battling cancer.

Funeral services were held May 3 at the Scranton United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Scranton United Methodist Church or Midland Care Hospice and sent in care of Carey Funeral Home, P.O. Box 196, Burlingame, KS 66413.

LJEC assists highway cleanup

LJEC is in its third year of partnering with the Kansas Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program. The co-op adopted a two-mile section of 16 Highway.

Sixteen employees and three board members participated in this year's Spring cleanup. Aluminum cans were collected separately and donated to the local humane society.



LJEC's Mike Jones and Steve Poe help pick up trash along 16 Highway near McLouth.



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